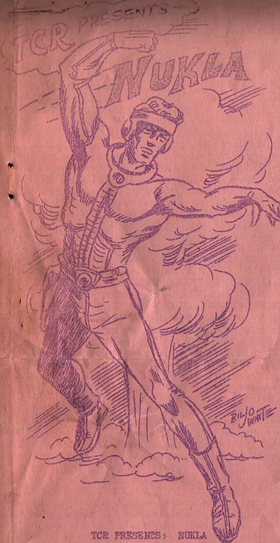
AUG. 25¢

THE COMIC READER

#40



TCR PRESENTS: NUKLA

Nukla, Dell's newest attempt at a super-hero, is a well developed copy of Capt. Atom which features fair plotting and great art. Matthew Gibbs poses as an international play-boy to cover for his activities as our country's foremost U-2 pilot. During a flight over a Red Chinese nuclear complex, his high-flying recon plane is atomized by a new type of missile. This explosion didn't destroy him but merely broke his body down into individual atoms which are capable of being reassembled by mental energy. After reforming his plane and himself, Matt destroys the nuclear complex plus China's supply of missiles. After returning to the US he stops Prince Luis De Mal from starting a nuclear war between the US and another country. The plot of this second tale is overworked but served mainly as a vehicle for developing Nukla's powers and limitations. At times the art tends to be too sketchy but the over-all effect isvery good. There is good depiction of emotion and the backgrounds feature quite a bit of detail which seems to be disappearing from other comics today. The best thing about him is a perfect choice for a uniform. This is his flying suit which features a beautiful beautiful balance of red and white--making him really stand out in any frame.

Both Captain Atom and Nukla were born out of nuclear explosions which broke their bodies down into atoms. Nukla uses this fact to make himself and his plane invisible. All he has to do is merely seperate his atoms to allow light rays to pass through. He also quickly learned that his powers worked only if he was invisible. Remember the early days of J'onn J'onzz? Another borrowed idea is Nukla's ability to create nuclear explosions. In the case of Nukla it was specified that he can control their sizes while with Capt. Atom this remains a question mark. Nukla doesthis by directing the energy directly from his own body. This drawing of power leaves him in a weakened state which Capt. Atom avoids simply by exploding his whole body and reassembling again.

While it is dificult to tell so early I think that Nukla can have a great future. Don't you agree?

IN THIS ISSUE:

N.Y. CON-WRITE UP!

TCR TRIP REPORT

THE COMIC READER, OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COMIC-BOOK FANS AND COLLECTORS. PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GLEN D. JOHNSON, BOX 126, CROWNPOINT, N.M. 87313

T.C.R. #40, AUGUST 14, 1965.

POLICY: 25¢ per copy. Supporting members may receive TCR for 20¢ per issue, B U T MUST send coupon #1. TCR is mailed in large manila envelopes only when you send these, and add a 5¢ stamp to each. NO ORDERS BEYOND #41 at present. ADVERTISING IN TCR. Half page ads cost $1.50, and full page ads are $3.00, but there is no room for ads in the next issue. NEWS!!!! TCR is mainly a newsletter, and is the ONLY fanzine mailed first class. Many times fans with a fanzine hold a "flash" item for their own zine. The item might reach me, tho' be delayed a month in getting to you when this is done. PLEASE, mail all news items to the editor of TCR. FANZINE REVIEW. If you would like your fanzine reviewed in TCR, send Derrill Rothermich a copy of your fanzine for reviewing processes. Derrill's address is: 606 West Eleventh, Rolla, Missouri. REPLY FROM THE EDITOR. When ever writing any fanzine editor, remember he not only receives the letter you send, but also from many other fans. To help cut the cost, as well as time it takes to answer each letter, send a s.a.e. (stamped addressed envelope). It also helps to write the name and address clearly when ordering TCR, or other fanzines. I've received about a dozen orders for #40, and I'm having trouble making heads or tails regarding the names and addresses of these letters. If you're one of these, consider yourself lucky if this issue reaches you. BACK ISSUES: All back issues except #28 and 38 are sold out. I do have extra pages of issues 34-39 that you may have free with a s.a.e. I'll send as many pages from these issues as there are stamps on your envelope.

Derrill Rothermich assisting editor
Staff artists Doug Potter & Bill Dubay
CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE:
Cover-Biljo White & Derrill Rothermich
ACADEMY NEWS-Paul Gambaccini
N.Y. CON-Ron Fradkin
John Carter-Steve Kelez
Trip Report-Derrill Rothermich-Glen J.
The Ego Crusher-Derrill Rothermich
Valuable comics-Ed Lehmann
Donated Capt. Am. cover-Ross Kight

QUOTES *from*

Bob Butts
FAN TO FAN
719 Pierce St.
South Bend 16, Ind.

ON THE LINE. Bob has certainly hit home with his comments on comic art and ascertaining the value thereof. Such statements apply to life in general as well, particularly that which is abstract and intangible. Evaluations of things physical can be made on the basic of universal needs and common, basic characteristics. A simple example is food. It is easy to assess the value of food, because everyone has a need for it (and use for it) which is the same, for all. Physically, we're human beings constructed the same way and each of us sees the need for food in the same way. Intellectually, 'tain't so. Each person's mind is different from his neighbor's and consequently he does not see ideas and concepts in the same light.//While I'm on Jennings' column, I might mention this means of storing Sunday strips. I do not collect them and have not tried this method. I'm assuming that the collector is saving the entire Sunday comics section both the strips he wants and those he doesn't want. STEP 1) would be to: Wrap the outside of the section with a large roll of Saran Wrap or polyethylene and staple it to the strip at the "spine". For extra protection, smaller sheets might be inserted between the pages, unattached, for easy removal when displaying or reading strips. STEP 2) When enough of these little booklets have accumulated (about 15), fasten or glue them together along left edge. Now you have an "anthology" of sorts with a rather big spine, which makes the next step possible. STEP 3) Here you have an option. The books might be taken to a book binder for professional binding, in which case do not staple Saran Wrap as mentioned in Step 1, since it will just have to be removed; or the industrious collector can search around for hard covers and attempt the job himself. In which case: STEP 4) Coat the spine with a good helping of Elmers and attach to the cover. Let dry and voila! Easily catalogued strip booklets which are not too hard to store with proper space and which preserve strips rather well.//The covers might be anything you want. I'd personally look for Atlases or something similar which are the same size as the booklets. Removing the insides makes room for the strips. But it could be anything that even remotely resembles a cover.//Like I said, I have not tried it. But if I were about to, this is how I would do it.//On other matters, I see disenchantment is slowly but surely creeping into fandom. It has been in my personal fan life for a long time now (although the difference here and with those such as Tom Jones who have given up comics com-

the READERS

pletely, my sense of wonder is periodically renewed by an extra-special issue). I agree: Julius Schwartz is losing ground. But so is Stan Lee. Even the meteoric rise of Gold Key (and although you dislike the use of absolutes, Mr. Jennings, such it was) is burning itself out.// FANDOM. This organization befuddles me more the longer I am a part of it. It seems so very simple and so very complex at times. Re: the matter discussed this issue, I agree with Jay Kinney. Old fans run fandom, but young fans a r e just as much a part of it. Where would we be without that snot-nosed little ten year old who doesn't "discriminate" against quality?//We (I include myself in this category because I have since passed the median age of fan collectors) older fans, having had more experience and more ability, can and should run things. It's t h e only way to make the best of what we've g o t. But is that our right to completely i g n o r e those who play a much more important and m o r e integral part in this organization than we?N ot by a long shot.//I'm not condoning crudzines of young faneds and I'm not saying we should only elect 10 year olds as executive secretaries, but we should recognize their importance and we should bend our efforts more to their needs, because without them, as we say in Hoosier vernacular, we'd be up S_t Creek.//Finally, the Doom Patrol. My only comment is: your putting me on!! The most realistic and the best comics on the market are, in order:1)Metamorpho,2)Magnus, 3) Magicman,4)Daredevil,5)Batman.//That third one may have people wondering, but I'm judging realism strictly on the basis of personality, not on plausibility of the adventures, etc. These are the ones who in my opinion act the way a super hero would act, and while the Patrol is close, it is hardly the best, and I would not go to such great pains as Herr Lattanzi to extoll their virtues.

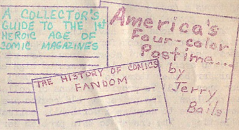
Tom Dietz
141 East Elm Street
Kent, Ohio,44240

I must admit that a lot of the comment in the letter column of late has struck me as being indicative of low intelligence. The manner of criticism and praise have been at times illogical. As I see it fandom has three purposes: 1) To make possible intelligent and knowledgeable discussion of comics, including both the current issues and those of the past. Because we are seriously interested in the comics (or comic art if you prefer), and are rather knowledgeable about them,

con't on page 4

A MUST FOR NEW FANS!!

A FEW FEATURES FOUND IN THE GUIDEBOOK:



After months of preparation, the Guidebook To Comics Fandom is finally available--and the features indicated above are only a sampling of the information and entertainment to be enjoyed within its pages. The Guidebook is a specialized publication; nothing like it has been published before, and it will probably be at least another year or two before anything like it is published again. The Guidebook is designed primarily--though not exclusively--for newer fans who wish to know about its history, current activity and its future.

Part One of the Guidebook consists of a special 13-page feature titled "America's Four-Color Pastime", written especially for this publication by Jerry G. Bails. A few of the article's segments are shown above and will give you an idea of its scope. Much of the information set forth in the many sections is probably general knowledge to older fans, but even veterans will more than likely turn up a number of new items that prove to be surprising. I know I did.

The Guidebook is 36 pages, 5½ x 8½, offset litho throughout, featuring 2-color cover and professional wrap-around binding. It costs 50¢. Supporting Members of the Academy: 35¢ plus coupon #6. All copies mailed in sealed manila envelopes. SEND TO:

Bill Spicer
418 N. W. Stocker St.
Glendale, California

our voices are respected by the editors. Despite what many fans seem to think, we have no numerical strength, our power lies in the fact that we have honest, knowledgeable opinions of what is good and what is bad in the field of comics. An editor will seriously consider criticism from a fan only if it is intelligent constructive criticism which is intended to show the editor how he may improve his "product" in the eyes of the public. And it should be remembered that the editor's first duty is to make a profit, no matter how dedicated he is to quality. Thus it is ridiculous to tell an editor to do away with Wonder Woman, for the mag shows a good profit. If you don't like Wonder Woman, don't buy it. (2) To serve as a training ground for people who would like to make a career of comic illustrating or writing. In this area some fans have done a tremendous job, while others have produced only trash. A comic editor will look for a writer who can produce original, well written scripts, not trite rehashings of ancient story lines. Art work is basically talent, but with serious hard work put into every effort, it becomes of high enough quality to attract editorial attention. Tis a far, far better thing to produce one well done effort a month than to bring forth a dozen poor ones. (3) To provide a means of collecting comics. Herein lies one of fandoms greatest problems. The prices on old comics are fantastically too high. No young fan can seriously hope to acquire a worthwhile collection if he has any other interests besides comic collecting. The answer to this problem certainly does not lie in public name calling and personality conflicts. Common sense would dictate not buying a mag at a price you consider too high. Demanding reasonable price would stop profiteering by every Tom, Dick and Harry with a few old comics. The situation may be helping to bring about its own cure in that a number of fans are no longer primarily super hero collectors, but have diversified into new types of collecting. // All the above probably sounds very pompous, for which I'm sorry. What I've said above is merely my own opinion, subject to change if someone shows me another point of view is better, I welcome comment on what I've said. // Thanks for letting me shoot off my mouth. ((Quotes from the Readers is for shooting off one's mouth. Thanks for writing.-Glen))

Leopold Beaudet
R.C.A.F. Station
Moisie, P. Que.,
Canada

I agreed with most of Bob Jennings' comments on the "new look" Batman in TCR #37, so naturally disagree with George Martin in #38. Too many fans want to relegate ALL of Jack Schiff's efforts to the trash can because he produced such inferior characters as Bat-Mite, Batwoman, etc. and featured so many infantile stories. Similarly, too many seem to praise everything that Schwartz produces because they are blinded by his early successes. However, there are some Schiff efforts that are worth examination, and there are Schwartz offerings that aren't worth two glances. Batman illustrates this admirably.//For instance...Of Batman's girlfriends, all would agree, I'm sure, that Batwoman was a sorry affair. However, I saw no objection to Vicky Vale, re-introduced during the latter part of the Schiff reign, and I wonder why Schwartz dropped her. Nevertheless, he did, and in her place introduces Patricia Powell with one of the most inane, asinine, and ridiculous situations it has ever been my misfortune to read. She's madly in love with Bruce Wayne but has never met him face to face because she or he (as Batman) always has a mask on; how stupid can a story line get? One begins to wonder if the return of Batwoman mightn't be better. // Schwartz committed a beautiful blunder when he substituted Aunt Harriet for Alfred. Not only was the death of the faithful butler one of the most poorly handled "new" Batman stories, but the substitution of this 'old maid' for Alfred was one of Schwartz's most serious mistakes. Thus far Aunt Harriet has added absolutely nothing to any Batman story, while Alfred has provided many an enjoyable adventure. I can attribute Schwartz's blunder only to the fact that he wanted sensationalism of some sort to attract new readers.// I also agree with most of Bob's other points (i.e. Infantino, good as he is, is not the illustrator for Batman; rendering the Bat signal obsolete was a mistake; ditto for the new car; etc) Though perhaps not as vigorously.

* *

I've received a few inquiries regarding the numbering of pages in TCR #39. For those who asked I'll try to explain. The date on the bottom of each page is the date that the page was mastered, and in Derrill's case, it was the date it was received. I'm sorry that I goofed on the numbering of pages 19 and 20. Many have written regarding subscription-rates. This info is given on the content page. Also, since #41 is my last issue, it seems logical that one couldn't subscribe beyond #41. - Glen

ACADEMY NEWS

by Paul Gambaccini

Here is the exact worth of every coupon so far. NOTICE THAT SEVERAL ARE NEW OFFERS.

#1---THE COMIC READER, 20¢ per issue. Order up to #41 from Glen; he will send the names of Supporting Members who have sent in coupons to the new publisher starting with #42. Don't order beyond #41 until you see the policy in the next issue of TCR. #2---send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Jerry Bails, 22529 Karam Court, Warren, Michigan, 48091 for details. Do not send the coupons until you make a specific order. Jerry will mail you information on the Academy microfilm library, which he operates for the ACBFAC as a service. #6---35¢ to Bill Spicer, 418-H West Stocker St., Glendale, California, 91202 for THE GUIDE BOOK TO COMICS FANDOM. Without this coupon, the volume costs 50¢. #7---$2.75 to Roy Thomas, Apt. 8, 3600 Hallmark Lane, St. Louis, Missouri will bring a four-issue subscription of #9-12 of ALTER EGO. No subscriptions beyond #12. #8---pending. #9---send Jerry Bails a s.a.e. for details on this special fanzine offer. #10---Entitles one to use of the Academy Fanzine Library. Contact Ross Knight, 1008 W. Leland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois for details. Send a stamped-self addressed envelope. THEN, when you order, send your coupon. #11---send to Keith Greene, 848 Cleveland Avenue, South Bend, Indiana will reserve a free copy of WHO'S WHO IN COMIC FANDOM 1965, which comes out Aug. 1st or slightly after. The book normally is $1.50. Don't miss it; print run of this zine will be limited. #12---no longer applicable. It gave supporting members a free listing in the WHO'S WHO.

NOTICE TO ALL FANZINE EDITORS! Send your fanzines to Ross Knight. These complimentary copies will be placed in the Fanzine Library for use by S.M.s. Besides providing a service to fans, you'll be getting yourself publicity...

In the next issue of THE COMIC READER, I will give (1) The results of the board balloting; (2) The recommendations for a Code of Fair Practice regarding comic book trading and selling from a Board committee of dealers (3) News from other Board committees.

We already have a new project in the offering---new updated editions of SECRETS BEHIND THE PRO WORLD, a modern version of Stan Lee's SECRETS BEHIND THE COMICS, and an off-spring of it, SECRETS BEHIND THE FANZINES. Both of these are strictly long-range projects, as the staff and helpers must be put together from the ranks of fandom. One main problem of the Academy is that most of its Board members are elected on the strength of their own individual fanzines. They naturally (as it should be) devote most of their efforts to their own works in fandom---but at the cost of having the Academy suffer a little.

All comments on the Alley Awards Poll are welcomed. Send them to me for inclusion in an All Alley-Awards edition of FORUM.

The following motions were defeated by the Executive Board in FORUM #7: (1) PHIL SEULING: "The Academy should abandon its coupon plans." (2) PHIL SEULING: "Designation of THE COMIC READER as the official newsletter of the Academy should be removed." (3) LARRY LATTANZI: "The Academy should draw up a minimum list of standards and award a seal of approval to zines meeting these standards." #2 was overwhelming defeated, #1 less so, and #3 was quite close in the voting. The full tally of who voted how will be carried in a future edition of THE COMIC READER.

The Executive Board is voting on the proposed name change of the Academy. More on this next month.

A fiery debate is underway, as Paul Moslander's proposed endorsement of the Comics Code Authority has caused a controversy. The final voting on this will appear (hopefully) next month, or at latest in September.

From Science Fiction Fandom the editor of that HUGO Award winning zine SPECTRE brings comicdom a zine that's sure to win an Alley Award.

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6401 Highland Dr.
Vancouver, Wash. 98661

WAIT THAT'S NOT ALL. For those of you who still haven't joined the Comicdom Fan Club-hurry and do so. The Web-Spinner is our Official Newsletter. It's the most unique Club in fandom. The cost is only $1.00. Don't delay in joining. Any real collector wouldn't miss this opportunity. Write to Tom Sampson.

* *

JERRY G. BAILS, 22529 KARAM COURT,WARREN,MICH.

SPECIAL OFFER*********

Have you missed getting AMERICANA IN F O U R COLOR? If you have, order it for $1.00 from Jerry Bails. Academy members may receive it for 90¢ and coupon #5. If you've used #5 for a previous offer, send no coupon. Clubs who wish to order five or more copies delivered to one address may have copies at 80¢ each. They need send only one coupon.

SUPPORTING MEMBERS of The ACADEMY are suggested to also send a s.a.s.e. and ask Jerry for his listings on special offers to members.

JERRY G. BAILS, 22529 KARAM COURT,WARREN,MICH.

NEW YORK COMICON '65
by Ron Fradkin

After spending the morning of July 31st at Steve Ditko's studio in New York, Bernie Bubnis and I, the creators of the 1964 New York Comicon, proceeded to the Hotel Broadway Central to see what kind of a con Dave Kaler could put on. For the most part, Dave put on a great con, one which proved to be even greater than the great '64 con.

As we arrived on the 4th floor of the hotel we were greeted by a gaily colored sign drawn by Mark Hanerfield featuring super-heroes cavorting about proclaiming that this was the 1965 New York Comicon. Shortly afterwards, I stood in line to pay the admission price of $5.00, after which myself and several others signed our names in a register Dave provided, along with any other Words of Wisdom we wished to write.

At this point the items brought by fans were confiscated, and claim checks distributed because Dave did not want any trading going on during the first program. I yielded my possessions under protest.

Once everyone was inside, programs describing the events of the two days were distributed. The CAPTAIN AMERICA serial was unavailable, and that the substitute would be the serial FLASH GORDON CONQUERS THE UNIVERSE. However, Dave promised that a few chapters of CAPTAIN AMERICA and CAPTAIN MARVEL would be shown.

The first program was a panel discussion - the Golden Age of Comics, moderated by Jerry Bails, and consisted of Otto Binder, Bill Finger, Gardner Fox, and Mort Weisinger. This discussion had both Jerry and the panel of pros answering questions. The audience would ask. The questions asked were such as who created what, and proved interesting.

During the day, several pros drifted in from time to time. Helping start the process were E. Nelson Bridwell and Larry Ivie.

The items which had been confiscated earlier were returned, and this time there were no threats from Dave, as was the case with the previous program. In the previous program, Dave had threatened to evict anyone rash enough to incur his displeasure. Fortunately, no more threats occurred during this program or the rest of the programs to follow, and the Con members

cont. next page

present proceeded to buy, trade, and sell comics. Among the more prominent dealers present were Steranko, Seuling, Thailing. Also in evidence were exhibits of rare comics, foreign comics, fanzines, artwork, and newspaper clippings, among others.

Another pro who arrived at this point was Dick Milgrim from DC, who had provided Dave with artwork and scripts to be used as door prizes.

Towards the end of the afternoon, a news team of reporters and photographers from CBS-TV arrived to interview the people present and to take pictures of the proceedings. A girl reporter interviewed Phil Seuling for the TV audience. Phil explained that this was the second New York Comicon.

The final program of the evening proved to be the most interesting and enjoyable program of the day. This was the masquerade party. Present at this were The Fat Fury (Marvin Wolfman), Sandman, The Man in Black Called Fate, Spider-man, three Shadows, Miss America (Margaret Gemignani), the original Flash, three Men From S.H.I.E.L.D., two Weather Wizards, Batman, Wolfman, Cyclops, two Green Lanterns, Mr. Fantastic, Big Daddy Roth, Jane Foster, the original Atom, John Force, Dr. Mid-nite, Captain Marvel (Phil Seuling), Mary Marvel (Phil's wife), and Plastic Man (Roy Thomas). Presiding over all this was Dave Kaler as Dr. Strange. Prizes of original covers from DC were given out as follows: 1st prize, Mary Marvel; 2nd prize, Flash; 3rd prize, Spider-man; 4th prize, Batman; and 5th prize, Miss America.

After the masquerade, most of the people had left. The few remaining saw the chapters of CAPTAIN AMERICA and CAPTAIN MARVEL promised earlier in the day.

On the morning of August 1st, more pros drifted in. This time it was Bill Harris and Jim Warren, and for the second year in a row, a con was graced by the presence of the lovely, charming, fabulous Flo Steinberg, who was greeted most enthusiastically by everyone.

I spoke to Mr. Warren and asked him if the rumor that CREEPY would be discontinued was true. He stated that this rumor was untrue, and that CREEPY would be around for years.

The first program for the day soon started. This was the serial FLASH GORDON CONQUERS THE UNIVERSE. Even though it was an excellent film, it was a rather poor substitute, as most New York fen had seen the film several times on WPIX-TV's Chuck McCann show. The first six chapters were shown, and a break for refreshments followed. A cake proclaiming the '65 con on its surface was served, and the fabulous Flo assisted in its serving, a very nice gesture on her part. During this time more pros drifted in. This time it was Will Elder. After the refreshment break, chapters 10, 11, and 12 of FLASH GORDON CONQUERS THE UNIVERSE were shown. Chapters 7, 8, and 9 were not shown due to lack of time.

Later in the evening, a surprise occurred. Dave played a recording of the origins of Batman and Robin, made by Russ Keeler and Larry Raybourne, whose pictures appeared as Batman and Robin in the lettercol of SCREEN THRILLS ILLUSTRATED #5. Needless to say, it was an excellent recording, accompanied by music and sound effects. More pros drifted in. This time it was Gil Kane, Woody Gelman, former artist of THE DODO AND THE FROG, and Leonard Darvin of the Comics Code Authority.

Once again, the final program of the evening proved to be the most interesting one. This was a panel discussion on comic fandom, moderated by Dave Kaler, and consisting of fans Roy Thomas and Rick Weingroff, and pros Jim Warren, Murphy Anderson, and Bill Harris. Many interesting facts were brought out. Mr. Anderson explained that Joe Kubert was not drawing HAWKMAN because he was unavailable to do the strip, and not because the tryout issues had not sold well, and that Joe had originally done the strip because he was on loan to Julius Schwartz from Robert Kanigher. Bill Harris stated that he quit the editorship at Gold Key because he felt that there was no future in comics, as evidenced by the Con members, who were interested in old comics, for the most part. A friendly debate ensued between Thomas and

cont. next page

Mr. Warren, who [illegible] fandom would go nowhere, and would [illegible] little influence on the editors and publishers [illegible]cause their small numbers represent very little buying power. By the end of the discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Warren was correct in his opinions of where fandom would go.

And that was it. Dave thanked the fans and pros for coming, and everyone slowly drifted out. Despite some of its faults, the 1965 Comicon was a good Con, even better than the 1964 Comicon. I hope that future Cons will prove even better.

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* *

Dates and numbers of cover reprints in TCR #38 are

Green Lantern #1-Fall, 1941
Capt. Marvel #18 -Dec., 1941?
All-Star #7 Oct.,Nov.,1941
Adventure #5? -Dec., 1942
Flash #2 -Feb., 1940
More Fun #56 -June, 1940
Human Torch #1 -Fall, 1940
Human Torch #5 -Fall, 1941
USA COMICS #1 -Aug., 1941
Leading #1 -Win., 1941-42
Leading #2 -Spring 1942
Leading #3 -Summer 1942

* *

In ordering "WHO'S WHO In Comic Fandom", Please be sure to add your name and address both on the envelope and on the coupon or somewhere in the envelope. This will make it a lot easier for all connected with publishing. Non-members of the Academy may receive WHO'S WHO for $1.50; Send to Bob (Keith)Greene, 545 Cleveland Ave., South Bend, Indiana.

* *

LET'S MAKE THIS BE KIND TO THE EDITOR MONTH, and follow the above suggestion and write your name on the envelope, and let's try writing it so it can be read by others!!!

IMPORTANT FLASH NEWS!! ROY THOMAS, Fandom's own has left D.C., and has passed a writing test, and is now working for Marvel. One of his first script will be MILLIE THE MODLE. Roy will also work on Iron Man. He had been working for D.C. for a few weeks on a trial basis, but decided his style of writing and thinking fit Marvel better. I think it safe in saying, we all wish Roy lots of luck.

BOMBSHELL ANNOUNCEMENT!! TOWER PUBLICATIONS soon to introduce an entire new line of comics, ranging from adventure to funny. Harry Shorten, the former editor of the MLJ-ARCHIE line of comics, is going to be with TOWER. One of the titles published by Tower is to be THUNDER COMICS, with Wally Wood as art editor. I've heard more, but I'm not at liberty to print, but watch for more next issue. Boy, with Harvey's new line, Dell entering the super-hero field, it won't be much longer until I won't have room for all the covers above each issue.

MORE BOMBSHELLING!!! THUNDERBOLT. Charlton will soon have out the following title, THUNDERBOLT, and it has been reported by a source that it will be the best of Charlton's costume heroes. Thunderbolt will have a costume that resembles the original Daredevil's. The art is suppose to be exceptionally good, and the story line is also reported excellent.

TARZAN of the Apes. Russ Manning has finished his first original Burroughs adaptations —— there may be an unusual feature in the magazine. Russ did all the art work on Korak # 10 and pencilled #11, and #12 will be done by a new artist, and should be a nice surprise to art lovers.

WONDER WOMAN. The Oct. issue "The End of the Beginning?" has a story written and drawn directly for and is about fans. Robert Kanigher wrote than;he had a lot of fun doing it. The Nov. issue, will give the entire, authentic secret origin of Wonder Woman, unexpurgated, written and drawn in the Golden Age style. "And-I'm going to stay there. The whole book. And succeeding books. Wonder Woman as she was. All golden age. I'm going to recreate the golden age, step by step, as if for the first time. If I fall on my circulation, it won't be for want of trying. It will be a fanzines dream. But-what about the rest of the reading public? Time will tell."

AND ANOTHER BOMBSHELL ANNOUNCEMENT!!! FIGHTING AMERICAN. It looks like Joe Simon really is going back into the super-hero business. He has put out the "3 Rocketeers" book by Harvey and right now he is trying to sell a 25¢ book featuring some unpublished Fighting American stories and some reprints done by Joe Simon and Jack Kirby.

PERSONAL ITEM. In the July 24-30, 1965 TV Guide there was a 2 page spread about Fess Parker and his visit to Crownpoint, N.M. For the fans who have asked - this is where I teach.

SHELLY MOLDOFF, who did HAWKMAN for years (before Joe Kubert) is presently inking some Batman and Superman strips.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD / ON 4-COLOR PRESSES / ON THE STANDS

AMERICAN EAGLE. Charlton has introduced a new hero called American Eagle, who appears in "Fightin' Air Force". Some fans might be interested to know that twice before this name has been used for a hero. The Nedor comic group featured American Eagle in "Exciting" and "America's Best". Prize Western also carried a hero named American Eagle. Tho' the name has been used three times, none of the heroes have had anything in common except fighting for justice, etc.

JOE KUBERT. In OUR ARMY AT WAR #166, Joe does a Sgt. Rock titled, "What's the Color of Your Blood?" Two new characters coming in D.C. war mags are: Lt. Steve Savage, and Rock's brother, marine Lt. Larry Rock.

TCR SCOOP LINE

by Jerry Bails

Both Daredevil and X-Men are going monthly, with still another artist taking over on Daredevil. Marvel is now selling 32 million comics magazines annually, twice what it sold before introducing the Fantastic Four in 1961.

John Romita (Captain America artist of the mid 50s) and many other new names will soon begin appearing on the credit lines at Marvel. Though the names may be new, many times the work will be familiar. Fans will soon be playing a new game: "Break the pseudonym!".

Look for Metamorpho to guest star in the Justice League, for Wonder Woman to surpass her former glory battling the Red Chinese, for Bob Hope to be eclipsed by a new off-beat hero, for Perry White to be replaced as editor of the Daily Planet, for the Doom Patrol to introduce one of the greatest new characters in the comics, for Superman robots to gain personalities of their own, for new characters and strips from every D.C. editor. The day is coming when a D.C. reader will just "Dial H" for hero!!!

Also watch for the comics hero to strike back against TV. Superman is going on Broadway as a musical--the score has been written by the great talents who created "Golden Boy" and "Bye,Bye,Birdie!" The Superboy TV show is dead, because sponsors want a show that will appeal to both young and old alike. Guess who! (Careful, you might be surprised at what the future has in store!)

Did you notice a couple of Phantom stories that weren't adaptations from the newspapers? The great story which had the Ghost Who Walks trapped in quick sand ("Blind Man's Bluff") was one of them. The author was Dick Wood, who also writes Dr. Solar, Twilight Zone, Man From UNCLE, and Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. Currently, Phantom adaptations are by Bill Harris, formerly an editor at Gold Key and now with the N.Y. Times.

The great new comic Total War is drawn, of course, by Wally Wood (whose work you've enjoyed on Daredevil). The writer is Leo Dorfman, one of the three major writers on Superman.

CBS Television filmed portions of the N.Y. Comicon for Walter Cronkite evening news program. The feature may appear any time in early August. The New Yorker and local papers also had reporters on hand.

Over 20 pros graced the N.Y. Comicon with their presence. A convention booklet is being prepared with complete coverage on this most marvelous of fan events. Watch for an announcement in the Comic Reader.

The Detroit Triple Fan Fair was also a rousing success that was high lighted by one of the finest exhibits of original comic art ever displayed. Reports on this convention will be forthcoming.

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ON THE DRAWING BOARD / ON 4-COLOR PRESSES / ON THE STANDS

SUPER-HIP. Coming in Bob Hope, and written by Arnold (DOOM PATROL) Drake, is a sort of catch-all parody of Superboy and Spider-Man. Arnold is tremendously enthusiastic about it. I hope all fans pick up a copy; you might like it.

POCKET-BOOKS. Belmont will put out THE SHADOW'S REVENGE in October; Ballantine will put THE VAULT OF HORROR in August and THE AUTUMN PEOPLE in October.

GAMES ANYONE. If you like games, there are Superman, Superboy, Batman and James Bond games now on sale. There are now two Man from U.N.C.L.E. jigsaw puzzles out as well as a Superman and Superboy oil painting kit and an UNCLE card game.

GIL KANE will be drawing a new series for STRANGE ADVENTURES called "The Man With the Animal Powers". For those that hadn't cared for the stuff Jack Schiff has edited in the past, you must admit he's doing great with most his titles. Prince Ra-Man is a great improvement over Mark Merlin, and if you're like me, you didn't notice the change over in artist. Mort Meskin isn't doing the art. He was replaced by Bernard Baily, the old SPECTRE artist. Kane's work has helped to add to the over all improvement, and Infantino had work in the last issue of Strange Adventure. If only Mr. Schiff would switch Lee Elias back to Eclipso and put Gil Kane on Adam Strange, he'd really be making a step in the right direction. It could happen!

LITTLE ANNIE FANNY. In september, there will be a soft-cover book, in color, featuring the best of Little Annie Fanny.

CHARLTON. Editor Pat Masulli writes that Mr. Thompson (is that you Don?) and Tom Fagan has submitted stories acceptable for publication. For those interested, Mr. Masulli penciled the covers his name appears on, and he started in the field with Fox and Hillman and has worked on costumeheroes for these companies.

3 ROCKETEERS. For those interested, the splash page of The Three Rocketeers is a reprint from RACE TO THE MOON #3. I assume the story with the 3 Rocketeers was an unpublished story as the 3 Rocketeers was introduced in Race to the Moon #3, and this was not one of the stories published. "This is how it Might have Happened"-in FATE was a reprint from THE MAN IN BLACK. Does anyone know if any of the other Harvey material was reprinted?

AL CAPP has prepared what in syndicate prices is the equivalent of $150,000 worth of drawing for the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity. "Li'l Abner and the Creatures from Drop-Out Space" is an informative comicbook aimed at enlisting young men and women in the Job Corps.

NEWS FROM JACK SCHIFF. "Baily is doing Prince Ra-Man, and Bob Haney is scripting both Eclipso and Ra-Man. A big book length combining both characters coming up in the Jan. issue, with Helio, the Sun Demon, as an alley of Eclipso, battling the Mind Master. MYSTERY IN SPACE is now featuring Ultra, the Multi-Alien. Strange Adv. for Dec. has an original long story with YOU, the reader as the hero. In Jan. we're featuring the "Return of the Man with Animal Powers" who may become a steady feature. Finally, what may be the most original character in recent comics history will appear in HOUSE OF MYSTERY---"Dial H for Hero"---in which a teen-age Robby Reed acquires the power through a strange dial-like device to be transformed into many different heroes each time he dials."

BOB Newhart again did his hilarious sketch called "Superman and the Dry Cleaners". This Lp is Warner Bros. 1588. On "Peyton Place", comics and Superboy have been mentioned.

BATMAN #175 cover-features Batman coming out of a door with his costume in shreds. The story's called "The Decline and Fall of Batman".

[illegible] the Shield will be in the [illegible] issue of THE MIGHTY CRUSADERS. I won't hold my breath. But it is possible Archie might give us something good yet.

STEVE DITKO. Watch for the following in Spider-Man: Pete goes to college, Spider-Man's the [illegible] leader revealed. Watch also for the return of Kraven and Molten Man, and following these two villains will be a new villain. As for Capt. Atom, Joe Gill is the writer and Steve has penciled the second new story.

GREEN LANTERN. E. Nelson Bridwell will write some future Green Lantern stories.

LONE RANGER. If you'd like a record album with two complete Lone Ranger radio shows on it, write Fred Flewelday, 138 Duffield, Detroit, Mich. It might be wise to send a S.A.E.

THUNDER AGENTS. David Armstrong adds more light to the subject of TOWER COMICS. Not only is a new title being added to the stands, but a publisher as well: Tower Publications which will publish Thunder Agents. A super hero book with art by Williamson and Crandall. Larry Ivie conceived the idea of the book and worked it out as a regular 36 page book with the [illegible] he had worked out and drawn one story, but at the last minute the book was changed to a 68 page, 25¢ book and the format was drastically changed with [illegible]. So Larry withdrew his strip and bought back the rights to his characters but now he is stuck because his characters are related to the idea of the book and he can't sell the strip to some other publisher. Thunder Agent will (or should) be out in Sept. Wally Wood has quit Daredevil and the next issue should be the last one with his art. Larry Ivie is writing and [illegible] a book of [illegible]. Larry also did a beautiful cover which was supposed to be for a book with Sub Mariner stories from the 40's but Stan decided he didn't want it.

DOOM PATROL, CHALLENGERS. Mike Friedrich writes that Arnold Drake is scripting a story where the Doom Patrol will team up with the Challengers in the Challengers book, and this will be followed by the Challengers appearing in the Doom Patrol's own mag. Doom Patrol #9 features "Meet Beast Boy" plus "Sting of the Fantastic Bug Man". Challengers #41 features "The Sinister Sponge Man" plus "Terrors of Mr. Tic-Tac-Toe".

MARVEL. George Somerville writes that rumor has it Stan Lee is planning a comic about the submarine skipper who usually hauls Sgt. Fury around.

FAMILY WEEKLY (Aug. [illegible] 1965) carried an article about National Periodical Publications being listed on the New York Stock exchange. It also mentioned the high price of comics, and that 1,200 fans had formed a nationwide Academy of Comic-Book Fans and Collectors.

JOHN RYAN is looking for information about a writer Albert Bester, who might have written for comics at one time. If anyone can help John, write to him at 12 Berkley St., [illegible] field, N.S.W., Australia. John also wrote of the accident John Wright of South Africa had. If you call being shot with a .22 slug an accident. It seems all John heard was a crack, and then pain in his right arm. Police are looking into the matter.

Jerry Fruchter adds more to "THE THUNDER AGENTS": "This giant size comic will include the following new costumed super heroes: Dynamo-Man, NoMan, and Thunder Squad (a type of Blackhawk group)." Jerry also mentioned that two other companies may enter the comic field.

Anyone's noticed a similarity between the art in NUKLA and SARGE STEEL the reason is that Sal Trapani works with Dick Girondano in Conn.

FRANK FRAZETTA drew the posters for the comedy hit "What's New Pussy Cat?"

NEWS SOURCES FOR THIS ISSUE: Jerry Fruchter, Roy Thomas, Russ Manning, Ray Bottle, Richard Fiberfield, Ron Frederick, Andy Zerbe, Mike Barrier, Pat Masulli, George Somerville, Mike Friedrich, David Emery, Steve [illegible], Jerry Ellis, Dave Armstrong, Fred [illegible], Bill Brooks, and Steve Ditko

1965 Trip Report

by Derrill Rothermich

PRESENT AND FUTURE EDITORS OF TCR MEET IN ROLLA, MO.

What had been planned as a small con with Roy Thomas, Biljo White, Glen Johnson, and I turned out to be just Glen and I. Roy was scratched from the list when he was offered a job by National and left for New York the last of June. Biljo also ran into trouble and couldn't attend. It seems that a state fireman's convention which is usually held on the last weekend of the month was suddenly moved up to the day of Glen's arrival. Biljo dropped me a quick note to that effect and I began to wonder if something wasn't going to happen to keep Glen away also.

However, Glen actually arrived ahead of the schedules 3:00 p.m. on July 24. He and his lovely wife showed up at my house more than five hours early and to say the least I was quite surprised. Glen must have felt right at home because the temperature had reached a hundred each ofthe last four days and was well on the way again. When I told him that Biljo wouldn't be able to attend, Glen was very disappointed because he had looked forward to seeing Biljo as he had done last year.

After making ourselves comfortable in front of my fan we began our detailed discussions as to the future of The Comic Reader. He showed and told me several things which I am not at liberty to mention at the present time. He also pulled out a drawing of Tarzan that Russ Manning had sent him. I had expected it to be excellent yet I was still surprised to see just how good it actually is. I would imagine that we will see a tremendous turn for the better. Among the other things he had with him was some art that he had never gotten around to using and which I will use if I can find the room for it in the future. Not only did he have artwork for me but many, many suggestions. These ranged from the reasons for his policy statements to ideas for future items to appear in TCR. Some of the stories he told me about different things that had to him since he assumed editorship of TCR really surprised me. However, I guess I won't fully understand all these problems

until I actually take over in September and then it will be too late to learn the easy way.

Glen then came up with his real surprise. He wanted to have a large issue even though he would be gone most of the time on vacation. In order to do this, he needed help and so he asked if I would be willing to do a review of NUKLA plus this report. This placed me in quite a bind because my finals were rapidly approaching and I had little free time. However, I agreed. Glen suggested that I call Biljo and try to get him to do an illo which I did on the following Monday. Biljo readily agreed and as a result you find his great work in this issue.

After a quick lunch we visited one of the local drug stores to look over the latest releases. Glen picked up several issues he was missing and we returned to my place and began discussing Ogden Whitney as one of the greatest talents in the comics field. He opened a suitcase which revealed a stack of very rare books, most of which I had never seen before. These included the four issues of SKYMAN. Other issues included a large collection of BIG SHOT and SUBMARINER. When he showed me a page of Kubert Hawkman art, I was almost tempted to steal it. I knew I wouldn't be able to get him to trade it so I had to settle for a simple trade of some Anderson art for a piece of Russ Manning's BEN-HUR art, a trade I was very happy to be able to make even though I hated parting with the Anderson art.

Glen still wanted to see Biljo so he suggested that I ride along with him up to Columbia and spend an hour or two with Biljo. Naturally I was all for it but a veto was cast and the Johnsons left for Rockford at about 3:30. I thoroughly enjoyed the visit and was surprised at just how much we managed to accomplish in such a short time. Just before he left he asked if I would be able to attend a national convention which may be held in Texas next summer. I said that I couldn't tell this far ahead but would be there if at all possible. I hope you enjoyed our meeting as much as I did, Glen! Maybe we will be able to get together again sometime in the future.

For those of you who are wondering just when we intend to release the information on the switch-over, it will all be in the next issue. Watch for a real surprise.

More TRIP REPORT, by ye old Editor

After leaving Derrill, my next stop was my parents in Rockford, Ill. On Monday, July 26, I called Ross Kight in Chicago to see if he and others might come to Rockford. Ross answered that he didn't have a car, and did not know of anyone who did. Immediately upon hanging up, I told all I was going to Chicago, and headed for the tollway. Ross gave me good directions in reaching his place and I was there in pretty good time. Already at Ross' was John Guzlowski. After spending some time going over the rare issues Ross had, and discussing Harvey's new line of comics, Ross, John and I left for Bill Plasek's and his attic full of comics. I had forgotten one case of my comics, etc. in Rockford, but displayed what I had with me along with the original art I had. Bill had recently gotten some original Human Torch art from the 50's and after we looked this over, we went for the attic. Fortunately, Bill had not laid any land mines, etc., and we arrived safely in his attic. It was mid after noon, and quite hot. It is almost impossible to look thru everything when viewing a collection like Bill's, but I did look thru certain issues while trying to carry on a conversation with the others. After leaving Bill's, Ross, John and I returned to Ross' and shortly after, Wally Reichert arrived with a pile of comics he planned to buy from another fan and wanted Ross' opinion on there value. It was getting late, and I had to leave. I wish I had more time to spend in Chicago, but maybe on my next trip I will.

The following day in Rockford, I happen to go into "The Collectors Corner" or such, and immediately spotted a copy of Action and Capt. America of old vintage. A few younger fans were standing around discussing prices or something with the proprietor. I asked the price of Capt. America, which must have been pretty high as I don't recall what it was, and was shocked it was as high as it was. I asked the younger fans if they were collectors. Finding that they were, I invited them to the parking lot where my car was, and passed out the current issue of TCR, and strongly suggested they order the GUIDEBOOK TO FANDOM, and look in fanzine for prices of comics. It seems many of them had heard of fandom, but had not seen any fanzines. One fan had once seen a copy of ALTER-EGO I believe, and was familiar with the name of Jerry Bails. One fan from Rockford that I remember was Bruce Anderson. These fans are

paying blood for old comics but I hope now that they know whe[illegible] items at a lower price, they'll take advantage. I also hope they let other [illegible]s know of the fanzines I gave them addresses for, and not turn around and sell [illegible]they buy for higher prices.

On Thursday, I left Rockford and arrived in Superior, Wisconsin Friday afternoon. On Sunday, a group of fans from Duluth met with Larry Lattanzi in Hibbing, Minnesota.

After leaving Superior for Crownpoint, I stopped in Des Moines, Iowa and visited Sol Davidson for a quick visit. Sol was leaving on vacation the following day. After adding FACE #2 from a trade with Sol, I started off again.

The following morning I called Robert Barrett in Wichita, and found he was at work, but did get his number there. I called and we talked for about 15 or 20 minutes. I have asked Bob to write a feature about Reed Crandall since Reed now lives in Wichita, and Bob is acquainted with him.

My next stop was Crownpoint, and was it nice to be home! My mail piled up beyond belief, and I've only been able to answer that of the most importance as I had to start work on this issue. I imagine it will be weeks before things are back to normal.

As soon as this issue is out, I'll try to have TCR #41 out as quickly as possible. I'd like to have it out before school starts. For those not with TCR for sometime, #41 will be my last issue, and Derrill Rothermich will continue with #42, so don't order beyond #41 from me. Watch the next issue for Derrill's policy on order, etc. I've waited as long as I could for Larry Lattanzi's write up of the meet at his place, it hasn't arrived yet, and mostlikely will be in the next issue.

* *

THE MOST VALUABLE COLLECTORS COMIC BOOK

by Ed Lahmann

Collectors values are after all intrinsic so there will be much controversy over my opinion expressed herein. That opinion however is based upon many things of which I will cover.//Rarity of course is a factor as is quality of art and story. Cultural impact is also important. ACTION Comics #1 was probably the most important early factor contributing to the growth of comic books. The art in this comic wasn't necessarily great but the idea of Superman was a true inspiration. Tarzan SS #20 is very rare and has outstanding art but this series was also covered in Tip Top Comics as well as the Sunday pages. This multiple coverage also applied to the Flash Gordon FCC #10 and the Prince Valiant FF #26. The rarest of the rare is probably the Makay Secret Agent X-9 Book #1. A black and white book of Raymond art also from the news papers. Other rare books are Buck Rogers #1, Marvel Comics #1, Batman #1, Detective #27, and the first true comic book ever published, Famous Funnies #1.//In considering rarity one must also consider the possibility of the material being reprinted which will decrease the true value of the original. Not only reprints but updated remakes also are a factor. I am accounting for all of these possibilities.//A very fine comic book featuring original material was Fawcett's Special Edition Comics #1 with Capt. Marvel. Very fine super hero art and scripted with a tongue in cheek. Perhaps the first issue of Whiz Comics with the Captain's origin is even more valuable.//I have made it known that my personal favorite comic book is the Joe Jinks SS#12 but I couldn't call it a valuable item.//In scrutinizing the many collectors items and using a process of elimination I narrow the field to three comic books one of which I feel is beyond a doubt the most valuable collectors item of all.//I must pick the Tarzan SS #20 in the trio because of the beautiful full color art and of all the newspaper reprints this one perhaps has the least chance of duplication. A point against this choice is the extreme amount of Burroughs material in circulation.//Also I have to pick Action Comics #1 because of the inspiring Superman idea and the tremendous impact and stimulus this book brought the periodical industry.//Buck Rogers #1 was considered for its prophetic values but I had to overlook it for what is probably the rarest comic book of all. Almost an impossibility to locate. My third choice is the David Makay Secret Agent X-9 book by Dashiell Hammit and Alex Raymond.//Which of these do I consider the most valuable? See A-E #4, page 10.

No. 5
CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS
AUGUST
10¢
WAS THE SENATOR TO BE THE NEXT VICTIM OF THE RINGMASTER'S WHEEL OF DEATH?
4 COMPLETE STORIES
FROM THE FILES OF
CAPTAIN AMERICA
Plus other features
CIRCUS
BUCKY
BETTY ROSS
WHEEL OF DEATH

Dave Pryor   #8 Marquard Road   Carmel Valley, Calif.   93924

Attention Comic Collectors:

I am seriously in need of ACTION COMICS #1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 12-25, 27, 42, and I also need Mint condition copies of #50, 52. I need all the preceding issues of ACTION in very good to mint condition, with the pages and covers all intact, nothing cut out - in other words - complete. In trade for the above comics I have the following items to offer:

MARVEL MYSTERY #47, 70, 71, 72, 77, 81, 86, 87, 89, 90; Sub-Mariner #34; BLACKHAWK #12, 16, 29; BLACK HOOD #13; MODERN #46-49, 51, 54-61, 63, 65, 66, 69, 73; SENSATION #55, 57; CAPTAIN AMERICA #37(poor cover-otherwise very good), 38, 47, 49, 56, 63, 68; ALLSTAR #5, 6, 18(coverless), 22(coverless), 33(coverless), 36(two copies - one mint, the other coverless); SUPERMAN #3, 13(no back cover), 15, 16, 22, 38, 42; ADVENTURE #97; WORLD'S FINEST #7, 16, 40; BATMAN #14, 15(coverless), 16(coverless), 19, 21; ALL FLASH #5; FLASH COMICS #40, 41, 42, 80; STAR SPANGLED #21, 35, 42, 110.

There are also a few comics which I am currently trading for. I am not sure of those which I shall receive, but I've listed some of them below:

SENSATION COMICS #1; FEATURE BOOK #26(guess who's in this one); FLASH COMICS #49, 57; GREEN LANTERN #15; WORLD's FINEST #8.

Also for the old SF magazine fans I have several issues that I will trade for the ACTION COMICS I need. They are all in fine to mint condition.

AIR WONDER STORIES Vol. One #6, 7, 9, 10, 11
AMAZING Vol. Three #9, 10; Vol. Four #6   Wonder Stories Vol. Two #1
SCIENCE WONDER STORIES Vol. One #1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Say, if you have some old DC's you want to trade, write to Dale Manesis, 2002N. 49th St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53208. He has hundreds of excellent comics from the thirties and forties for trade for DC's. Also BLB's.

Speaking of BLB's, I have several I'd trade for ACTION's - Buck Rogers and the Doom Comet, and the Planetoid Plot, vs. the Fiend of Space, on the Moons of Saturn. I need any Tom Swift BLB's, will trade for above.

Just in case anyone feels like throwing away money, my phone number is 1-408-659-2904. Please call only after 7 p.m. daylight saving time.

THE EGO CRUSHER

BY

DERRILL R. ROTHERMICH

Rating method: A=excellent; B=very good; C=good; D=fair; F=poor. All fanzines with a rating of C or higher are worth buying.

Some of the zines I had hoped to review this time haven't arrived so the column isn't as long as I had expected. One of these is Alter-Ego #9 which is delayed because the printer is over two weeks late getting the issue ready for Roy. As tojust when it will finally be ready is hard to say. The next issue of BATMANIA will be ready in about a month instead of appearing on the quarterly schedule. Biljo has a lot of extra material and wants to get the next issue out as soon as possible. WARNING!! I had always thought it was generally accepted that anything said or that appears in any zine is open to comment by ANY fanzine reviewer. I have always gone on this assumption and will continue to do so. As a result if you editors don't want me to comment on something that appears in your zine, you had best not include it in the first place. IMPORTANT!! Will any of you who ordered COMIC JOURNAL #1 from DaveArmstrong about a year ago and never received your issue please contact me.

THE GUIDEBOOK TO COMIC FANDOM (Bill Spicer, 418-H West Stocker Street, Glendale, California 91202--special one shot--offset) This issue has been in the planning and production stages for some time now but the wait was well worth it. Fandom is a very nebulous thing and it is almost impossible to give an adequate description of it to someone who hasn't the slightest idea of what is going on. Still this booklet comes very close to doing just that. Even though it is specifically aimed at the newer members of fandom there is plenty of items of interest to almost everyone. The main features include a Collector's Guide To The First Heroic Age. Here is a listing of almost 200 comics from the 40s giving the date of the first and [illegible] issues and the publishers. Also included are articles on the history of comic [illegible], comic strips, and comic books; a list of the year of birth of many of the leading comic [illegible]; plus many, many pages of ads from all of the major dealers and zine editors. If you want further information on this issue, just write Bill. (A+)

YANCY STREET JOURNAL #9 (Marty Arbunich, 60 Gladys Street, San Francisco, California 94110--7-12 times yearly--litho--$ .15) As an experiment, Marty has printed this issue by litho instead of the usual ditto. After a vote he will announce if this will be the form of all future issues or whether it will go back to the ditto. The use of litho makes the zine much more attractive and easier to read. VOC has proven popular in a newspaper format and so will YSJ. This time around YSJ varies from the excellent new column by Marty--Bearer of the Awesome Amulent--to some rather pointless comments by Steve Perrin. Bill Dubay's column on Wally Wood wasn't as interesting as it could have been but served to supply fandom with some information about this pro great. Steve Kelez's column has lost the originality that it displayed during the first couple of appearances and is now solely devoted to comments on the current Marvel releases as is Lee Whittlesey's column. I really see no reason for this duplication of effort. If these two are going to remain the same in the future, Marty would be better off dropping one of these and using the extra room for his discussion column which was on the Avengers this time. Picto-Origins features the originof Marvel Boy. This wasn't a particularly glowing choice but this is still one of the highlights of YSJ. The layout is excellent but one thing really bothers me and I would imagine that it will do the same to many of you. I can understand an occasional typing error because they can crop up in anyone's work including my own. However division of such words as strange, broke and while is irritating. I would suggest to Marty that he spend a little more time on his layout so that such divisions are unnecessary. At the low price of $ .15 YSJ continues to be the bargin of the month. (B)

MAGNUM OPUS #1 (Steven Kelez, Box 457, Talmage, California 95[illegible]--bimonthly--offset --$ .35+10) This zine enters the field to compete with SSC and FI but I am afraid that it doesn't come close to either. This first issue is a curious mixture that has possibilities of becoming pretty good if the editors will change their policy. Their aim is to bring their heroes to the readers on a more regular schedule than any other zine featuring super-heroes. However, this aim will most likely prove to be their downfall in that in their rush to meet a deadline, sufficient care won't be given to the plots and art. The first mistake they have made is to try to crowd three different heroes into this issue. The first story is about a hero by the name of Ace of Spades which is as unoriginal a name as is possible to find. There must be a dozen other amatuer characters by that name floating around. The attempt at humor isn't too successful and the action jumps rapidly from one scene to another with little attention given to plot development. This same fault infects the third strip entitled SON OF THE SABRE. If Steve had eliminated one or the other and used a longer storyeither could have been quite enjoyable. The highlight of the issue is a 13 page strip featuring Ultro. Shane Savage is crippled for life but learns that he is capable of controlling his life energy. In order to be more efficient in his fight against crime, he builds a robot and endows it with this energy. As a result, Ultro is really neither man nor machine but a unique combination of both. The plotting was carefully developed and perfectly executed. Mickey Schwaberow's art is occasionally very good but more often is awkward. However, this would be eliminated if he took more time with it. Steve says that at least one more character will be introduced but this would be his greatest error. His efforts would be better spent if he would just concentrate on developing his two best features which are Son Of The Sabre and Ultro. (C+)

[illegible] (Rick Weingroff, 3231 Southgreen Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21207--irregularly--multilith--$ .50+5) Slam-Bang has indeed come a long way since its first issue but not in the direction that Rick believes. Occasionally I come upon an article that I can't stand to read at one sitting. However, these are usually found in the large number of crudzines that infect fandom and not in what is supposedly a high quality zine. Yet "Behind The Spectre" proved to be just this type of article. I do not agree with Rick's idea that an article shouldn't contain narration but this isn't the reason that I dislike this article. As a matter of fact, he reverts to quite a lot of narration to make his points. Rick takes a minimum of observations and then proceeds to beat them to death. He rambles on and on and all he does is repeat each point several times several different ways. After the first ten pages the wholething becomes too much to stand. The next article is a short two pager which attempts to compare L'il Abner and Captain Marvel but only succeeds in falling flat. The letter column and a short but effective piece by Tom Fagan is all that kept this issue from being a total waste. Tom Fagan's SelfAnalysis comes very close to equaling Warlock--his masterpiece in AE #6. Because of Tom's article I think I will be generous (C-)

BATMANIA #6 (Bill White, Box 115, Columbia, Missouri 65202--quarterly--mimeo--$ .30 +10) This issue didn't really have a substantial article with "Those Behind Batman" being little more than an open letter to the readers. It was a report on the production staff at DC and provided quite a bit of information for those who knew little or nothing of this phase of producing a comic. Other features include a revival of Profiles on Collectors and such regular columns as Batmanian Roll Call, Comic Oddities, The Batrader, and The Batmanians Speak. This latter item is of special interest because two friends of John Prentice came to his defense and reputed any claims that he did nothing but sign his name to the strip. This issue also includes the first part of Tom Fagan's listing of all of the Robin tales in Star Spangled Comics. Also included are the ballots for the officers to the national Batman Club. If you want to cast your ballot be sure to get this issue. While there is nothing really significant about this issue, Biljo's magic personality still makes it enjoyable. (B-)

Collectors Corner P13

[illegible] ([illegible]m, 4831 East Superior Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55804--irregularly--ditto--$[illegible]25) This zine was sent to my home address in St. Charles for me to review. It's hard for me to figure out why when I have only given my Rolla address as the place to send all zines. As a result, I want to take this opportunity to say that unless I definitely say otherwise all correspondance is to be sent to me at Rolla. My parents both work and I can't expect them to take the time to have such zines forwarded to me at school. Now that I have cleared this up, back to the zine itself. This is the only time the zine will have this name as it will become ARMAGEDDON with the next issue. I find this change completely unnecessary but that is the editor's decision. Since he intendsto have quite a bit of EC material, it seems to me that the first title would have been more suitable. The cover is by Kelez and Schwaberow and is one of the best I have seen lately. They did a beautiful job in capturing the old EC horror style. The articles inside easily live up to the promise of the cover. BUZZ is a unique review of the first four issues of the Fly by means of a comparison with Captain Marvel. Steve Kelez sometimes stretches a point but for the most part the comparisons are well thought out and carefully developed. The second article is a broad review of the reasons for the popularity of All-Star which includes a brief history of this group. The article lacks detail but is a good background to these books. This is written by Glen but has nothing to do with his JSA series in AE. The balance of the issue contains an introduction to EC by John Klimcheck, a Green Lantern index by Larry Herndon, several pin-ups by Steve Kelez, plus several pages of ads. The back cover is by Bill Dubay. (B)

BATMANIA #1 & 2 REPRINTS READY SOON

These two smash issues are being reprinted by special permission from Biljo White via offset. They were originally published over a year ago on a limited print run and as a result many of you missed them. BATMANIA #1 has the [illegible] on what they thought of the NEW LOOK BATMAN. The second issue features a long article about Batman's adventures before he met Robin entitled "BATMAN BEFORE ROBIN". These two are currently at the printers and will be sent out the first of September. I expect a large demand for these so I would suggest that you get your order in as soon as possible. The print-run this time is 400 copies of each and all orders will be sent in an envelope. Price is $ .60 each or both issues for $1.00. Order now from:

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